

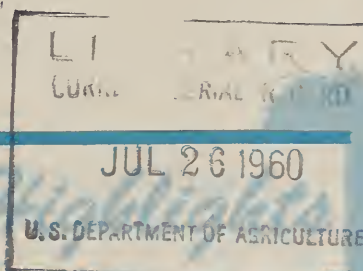
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## Farm and Home Development



No. 7 -- June, 1960

ARE WE SATISFIED? The enclosed statistical summary of FHD work in 1959 is quite revealing. Although the total number of families worked with has gone up each year since 1955 -- the number of NEW families has dropped considerably. Let's look at the record:

Year	No. Families Worked With	No. of New Families Started	Percent of Total That Were New Families
1955	44,566	26,492	59.4
1956	56,000	23,610	42.2
1957	64,325	20,459	31.8
1958	69,888	17,364	24.8
1959	72,326	14,836	20.5

As can be readily seen, the number of new families started each year is steadily declining. Likewise, the percent of new families to total families worked with has steadily decreased. This leads to two major questions: 1) ARE WE STARTING ENOUGH NEW FAMILIES? AND 2) ARE WE GRADUATING OLD FAMILIES FAST ENOUGH? The two problems are interrelated since one of the major reasons agents are not starting more new families may be their work load of old families will not permit it.

The sharp drop in number of new families started each year since 1955 has produced a drastic drop in growth of FHD work. This can be vividly seen in the chart below.

Percent of Increase in FHD Work Over Previous Year (families worked with)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Growth in Percentage</u>
1956	25.7
1957	14.9
1958	8.6
1959	3.4

If this trend continues, we'll soon be working with fewer total families each year rather than more.

Federal Extension Service -- U. S. Department of Agriculture

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It's interesting to note other comparisons from the statistical summary.

- . Of 48 States reporting -- 26 increased the number of families worked with last year, while 22 worked with fewer families than the year before.
- . Half of the States are doing 90 percent of FHD work, with an average of more than 2500 families per State.
- . The other 25 States are doing only 10 percent of the total FHD work, and are working with an average of only 250 families per State.
- . The number of low income FHD families, families just getting started in farming, and those having no previous contact with Extension has steadily decreased since 1956. On the other hand, the number of part-time farmers worked with in FHD has steadily increased.
- . In numbers, the Southern and North Central regions have had the greatest gain.

We think you'll want to study the statistical summary carefully and give thought to how FHD work can be strengthened in your State. Surely, there never was a time when farm families have had greater need for the type of assistance that FHD offers.

STUDIES FHD Puerto Rico's State FHD Steering Committee recently  
FIRST HAND: observed Farm and Home Development work first hand  
during a field trip to Cayey County. Purpose of the trip was to better acquaint members of the committee with FHD problems and progress.

The State committee includes Director Huyke, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, the experiment station director, the State Secretary of Agriculture, director of the Soil Conservation Service, director of the Farmers Home Administration, president of the Puerto Rico Farmers Association, director of vocational agriculture, and the director of the University's home economics department.

"The steering committee was greatly impressed by the economic progress being attained by farm families through FHD. But above all, committee members are convinced that 'teamwork' among public agencies interested in agriculture is a decisive factor to improved farming and farm life."

GROUP TEACHING: Wisconsin is emphasizing group teaching as a means of reaching more families with FHD assistance. Management specialists Louise Young and Glen Pulver



met with a group of Green County families once-a-week for six weeks this spring to experiment with new ideas in group teaching. They report that they learned a lot from this teaching experience directly with families. Plans are now underway to hold six district conferences for agents on group teaching methods.

Wisconsin also reports attention is being given to record keeping, budgeting, social security, and insurance programs in family financial planning.

FHD COURSES: Mississippi, Washington and Wisconsin each held summer school FHD courses this spring. Twenty-one county workers attended the three-week, 3-hour graduate credit course in Mississippi from June 6 to 24. The Wisconsin course-- May 31 to June 17 -- attracted 16 students. The four-week Washington State University course is still in progress.

Two members of our staff -- James E. Crosby, Jr. and Bryan Phifer -- helped teach the Mississippi course. Buel Lanpher of our staff taught the Wisconsin course. Most of the students are county workers. In Mississippi, women outnumbered men 13 to 8. And  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days of the Mississippi course were devoted to methods of giving informational support to FHD work.

FROM ALABAMA: In discussing the place of the family garden, John Bagby, Alabama horticulturist, gives us a good example of relating outlook and subject matter in considering alternatives. He points out that a good  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre garden will produce enough vegetables for a family of five -- costing \$325 retail. To buy these vegetables the family would have to produce and sell 2 bales of cotton, 250 bushels corn, three 500 pound calves, thirteen 200 pound hogs, 5650 pounds milk or 3200 pounds peanuts.

FHD OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES: Several States have recently taken a critical look at how FHD work can be strengthened. As a result, three new statements on FHD objectives and policies have come to our attention this month. One of these, Wyoming, is still in the preliminary draft stage. The other two are from Iowa and New Hampshire. We think you'll be interested in some excerpts from these.

Iowa:

"Administrative endorsement and encouragement of farm and home development has stimulated its growth and expansion so that now most counties are involved. FHD has reached the stage where all county staff members and extension councils should consider it a core component of the Iowa extension program. This means that all staff members should feel a personal responsibility both to improve the quality of the program and increase the number of people being reached.

"Members of the county extension staff will assume responsibility for developing an understanding of FHD on the part of the county extension council, securing their approval and support..., planning the specific subject matter content, and organizing and initiating the methods and sequences they will use in conducting the teaching activities."

The Iowa statement also defines FHD, Extension's objectives, the specific roles of State and county workers, and the minimum requirements for doing FHD work with families.

New Hampshire:

The New Hampshire handbook states the objectives of FHD, summarizes experience, and suggests procedures and tools to be used.

The handbook states that FHD is a method, not a program; and that fundamentally FHD is not a service job -- it is a teaching job. Basically, it is not the supplying of technical farm and home information -- rather it is the teaching of how to apply such information to an individual situation in a manner that will bring increased satisfaction.

In summarizing New Hampshire experience, the handbook states that among other things the administrative staff is convinced of the following points:

1. The farm and home approach is successful when critically applied to the types of problems it is designed to solve.
2. This type of extension assistance is welcomed by families.
3. The problem-solving method can be taught in group meetings equally as well as through individual visits.
4. We can develop the necessary skills and tools to teach principals of decision-making.

10 QUESTIONS: A training session for Michigan FHD agents confronted with a "new" poultry enterprise was built by the specialists concerned on the 10 questions below. Sounds like a realistic approach for FHD workers.

1. What are the reasons for an egg industry in Michigan?
2. How will expansion of total U. S. egg production affect prices for Michigan producers?
3. What problems will producers have in finding markets?
4. Can cost of laying rations be reduced?

5. What are the features of the MSU laying house?
6. What labor returns can be expected on the modern egg farm?
7. What investments are needed for a full-size business?
8. Can we produce eggs for 31 cents a dozen?
9. How realistic is production of 20 dozen eggs per bird?
10. What about credit for poultry expansion?

WHAT AGENTS THINK: Some provocative views of FHD work are revealed in a survey of 37 agents in a western State. The survey is a part of a M. S. Thesis on agents' attitudes on selected programs. Agents rated FHD important to both farm families and the entire county program. Most felt it helped them become more adept in assisting families analyze problems and alternative solutions.

Some other findings:

- . Half the agents didn't clearly understand what was expected of them in FHD.
- . Two-thirds felt they needed more training.
- . Agents expect specialists to reflect the attitude of administration.
- . Agents feel the tendency of some specialists to offer direct recommendations rather than helping to analyze problems is in conflict with FHD principles.

FHD FAMILY FEATURED      A Mississippi FHD family is featured in  
IN PROGRESSIVE FARMER:    the March issue of Progressive Farmer  
   magazine.

The article, by Extension Editor Duane Rosenkrans, Jr., tells how the O. D. Judge family of Amite County has developed a top dairy operation in just four years. When they purchased their farm, neighbors didn't give the young couple from Baton Rouge more than six months to a year before they'd be leaving. Today, "their 260-acre farm is becoming a model of good land use, and an outstanding live-at-home program," states the article.

The article is just one example of the good informational support being given to FHD work in Mississippi. News and feature articles highlighting progress of FHD families are an excellent way to motivate other families to seek such assistance.



